

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 03266 101537Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSM-03 EB-08 COME-00  
DOE-11 SOE-02 IO-13 ACDA-12 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01  
/103 W

-----057407 101543Z /41

O 101458Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1814

AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3266

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: ENRG, PBOR, IS, EG, US  
SUBJ: AMOCO INCIDENT

REF: STATE 59628, STATE 59041

1. SUMMARY. DURING MAR 10 DEMARCHE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER YADIN, WHO IS ALSO ACTING MINISTER OF DEFENSE, MADE CLEAR THAT THE GOI WISHES TO RESOLVE AMOCO INCIDENT QUICKLY, PEACEFULLY AND EQUITABLY. GOI PROPOSES THAT EMBASSY NAVAL ATTACHE, ISRAELI GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE AND, IF DESIRED, AMOCO REPRESENTATIVE MEET SUNDAY, MARCH 12, TO REACH AGREEMENT ON LOCATION OF MEDIAN LINE AND LOCATION OF AMOCO EQUIPMENT. PENDING RESOLUTION OF THIS MATTER, IDF UNITS HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION AGAINST AMOCO'S VESSEL OR EQUIPMENT PROVIDED AMOCO ALSO STANDS FAST. PLEASE ADVISE. END SUMMARY.

2. CHARGE', ARMY ATTACHE, AND ECONOMIC COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR MET AFTERNOON MARCH 10 WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND ACTING MINISTER OF DEFENSE YADIN, DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER ZIPPORI AND CHIEF OF INTELLIGENCE GENERAL GAZIT TO DISCUSS AMOCO  
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SITUATION. PRIOR TO MEETING, MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL EVRON HAD TWICE TOLD CHARGE' THAT GOI FORESAW NO PROBLEM OVER LATEST AMOCO INCIDENT. THIS VIEW WAS REINFORCED BY VERY RELAXED AND CORDIAL ATTITUDE ON ISRAELI SIDE DURING THE DISCUSSION.

3. CHARGE', AT BEGINNING OF CONVERSATION, SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO RAISE THE AMOCO MATTER AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL AND

WAS THEREFORE SPEAKING TO PROF. YADIN IN HIS CAPACITY AS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER. HE THEN HANDED YADIN A CHRONOLOGY OF THE EVENTS IN THE GULF OF SUEZ AS THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED OF THEM BY AMOCO.

4. MINISTER YADIN SAID THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN WAS SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME AS THE IDF VERSION. GOI VIEWS THIS QUESTION, HE SAID, AS ESSENTIALLY TECHNICAL: FIXING THE EXACT LOCATION OF THE MEDIAN LINE AND OF THE AMOCO EQUIPMENT. TO RESOLVE THIS TECHNICAL PROBLEM, GOI PROPOSES TWO POSSIBLE TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS:

- (1) THE EMBASSY NAVAL ATTACHE AND A MEMBER OF THE ISRAELI MAPPING AND SURVEY DEPARTMENT COULD GET TOGETHER IN TEL AVIV ON SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 12, WITH THE APPLICABLE CHARTS TO MAKE A DETERMINATION OF FACTS;
- (2) THE EMBASSY NAVAL ATTACHE, A MAPPING AND SURVEY DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVE AND AN AMOCO REPRESENTATIVE, IF DESIRED, COULD MEET IN THE GULF OF SUEZ ON SUNDAY MORNING TO MAKE AN ON-THE-SPOT DETERMINATION OF FACTS.

5. YADIN ASKED WHICH PROCEDURE WE WOULD PREFER. HE WAS TOLD THAT THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE REFERRED TO WASHINGTON FOR DECISION. PLEASE ADVISE.

6. AT THAT POINT, ISRAELIS MENTIONED THAT TODAY ANOTHER AMOCO TUG HAD ARRIVED IN THE DISPUTED AREA AND HAD ANCHORED NEAR THE

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BUOY WHICH THE GOI CLAIMS IS EAST OF THE MEDIAN LINE. MINISTER YADIN SAID THIS WAS DISTURBING. WHEN PRESSED BY CHARGE, HE GUARANTEED THAT THE IDF WOULD "DO NOTHING" PENDING A RESOLUTION OF THE LOCATION PROBLEM PROVIDED AMOCO ALSO DID NOTHING TO CHANGE THE STATUS QUO. THIS INCLUDES, YADIN SAID, GOI WILLINGNESS TO LEAVE THE BUOY WHERE IT IS FOR NOW. GOI UNDERSTANDS THAT AMOCO IS NOT TRYING TO OPERATE EAST OF MEDIAN LINE AND GOI HAS NO WISH TO HAMPER AMOCO OPERATIONS TO WEST OF

INE. HOWEVER, GOI MUST MAKE SURE THAT AMOCO DOES NOT CREATE FACTS "ON THE GROUND."

7. CONVERSATION CONCLUDED WITH CHARGE' COVERING OTHER POINTS IN HIS INSTRUCTIONS AS PROVIDED IN REFTELS.

HE SAID THAT HE HOPED PROF. YADIN WOULD AGREE THAT THIS WAS A TIME TO "COOL IT" AND TO AVOID FORCE OR THE THREAT OF FORCE, NEITHER OF WHICH THE USG WOULD COUNTENANCE IN THIS SITUATION. THE MINISTER PLEDGED THAT IF EVERYONE STANDS FAST WHILE LOCATIONS ARE DETERMINED, THERE WILL BE NO FORCE OR THREATS OF FORCE.

8. COMMENT. WE BELIEVE THAT AN ON-THE-SPOT DETERMINATION IS PREFERABLE AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF OUR DEFENSE ATTACHE'S OFFICE IS PREPARED TO TAKE PART. WE ALSO RECOMMEND THAT AMOCO

BE A PARTY TO THE FACT FINDING.

9. WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED CAIRO 7837 CONCERNING MOVEMENT OF RIG 511 AND INTENTION OF AMOCO TO RESUME ACTIVITIES MORNING OF MARCH 11. WE RECOMMEND IN THE STRONGEST TERMS THAT AMOCO BE DISSUADED FROM THIS COURSE OF ACTION. GOI WILL CONSIDER IT A PROVOCATION. RIG SHOULD IMMEDIATELY RETURN TO ITS MARCH 9 LOCATION PENDING RESOLUTION OF DISPUTE. PLEASE KEEP US ADVISED.  
VIETS

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** ENRG, PBOR, IS, EG, US  
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